



Congressman Jon Porter

Monthly Update

July 2004

Porter Report – Monthly Update



As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Nevada's Third Congressional District, one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.

During the month of June, I had the opportunity to visit Iraq as part of a Congressional Delegation trip to Baghdad. I also continued to lead the fight against the Yucca Mountain project and sponsored legislation that passed the US House of Representatives to strengthen workforce training for the unemployed.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of my newsletter and I look forward to hearing from you with any questions or comments.

Porter Spends Father's Day In Iraq With Congressional Delegation to Baghdad



Congressman Porter met with soldiers from Nevada stationed in Iraq during his Congressional Delegation trip to Iraq

In the days preceding the recent transfer of sovereignty in Iraq, I had the opportunity to participate in a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to Baghdad over Father's Day weekend to meet with the Iraqi officials who have now accepted control for the new Iraq. I was joined by Congressmen Peter Hoekstra (MI), Mike Rogers (MI), Joe Wilson (SC) and Adam Putman (FL) on this important trip.

I joined the Congressional Delegation to Iraq at the

request of House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. In a statement issued before my trip, Speaker Hastert said "I have requested that Congressman Porter be part of the Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to Iraq so that he can report back to House Leadership on the progress being made toward the approaching June 30 hand over. This transfer of sovereignty to the new Iraq government will be a

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major shift in the country's transition to a democratic government, and Congress should be fully informed as to the status of developments."



Congressman Porter (second from left) and fellow Members of Congress met with interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi (third from left)

During my trip I had the opportunity to meet with US troops and both Iraqi and American leaders. I was particularly proud to visit several troops from Nevada who were stationed in Iraq and we were able to spend time together and share a meal during my visit.

I was honored to meet with interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. Allawi was appointed to the Iraqi

Governing Council following his return from exile after the fall of Saddam in 2003. He held the rotating presidency of the interim governing council during October of 2003, and on May 28, 2004 he was chosen by the council to be the interim Prime Minister to govern the country beginning with the United States

handover of sovereignty until national elections, scheduled for early 2005. In a separate meeting, our delegation met with interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer. Named interim president on June 1, 2004, Ghazi al-Yawer also served as a member of the interim Iraq Governing Council.



Congressman Porter with interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer

In addition to these meetings, we also visited with Ambassador Paul Bremer, Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority and General Ricardo Sanchez, head of coalition forces in Iraq.

Less than a week after my return, and two days ahead of schedule, Iraq became a sovereign nation. This transfer of power is a monumental occasion because the Iraqi people will take control of their government and their future by

creating a society governed by the beliefs of life, liberty, and the pursuit of freedom. Having met first hand with Iraqi families, I have heard their stories and their desire for peace and a democratically elected government. They are excited by what is to come, but they also realize the challenges ahead of them.

Having spent time with the Iraqi interim government as well as Iraqi security forces on duty and in training, I know first hand their capability of completing the task.

I am proud to welcome Prime Minister Allawi and the country of Iraq into the international community. Our nation looks forward to a friendly and prosperous relationship with the new Iraq.



Congressman Porter with Iraqi police recruits in Baghdad

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House Passes Porter Legislation To Strengthen Workforce Training for the Unemployed



On June 3, 2004, the US House of Representatives passed the "Worker Reemployment Account Act," legislation I introduced to offer assistance for unemployed workers.

My legislation would provide for a pilot program funded under the Workforce Investments Act (WIA) to be used by states and local workforce investment boards to offer personal reemployment accounts (PRAs) of up to \$3,000 to help the neediest unemployed Americans return to work quickly.

The Worker Reemployment Accounts Act is a new, innovative approach designed to provide unemployed Americans additional flexibility, greater choice, and more control over their employment search. My bill is now pending in the US Senate, and I urge the Senate to consider this measure as quickly as possible so it can begin to make a difference on behalf of working families across the country.

A key component of the plan allows workers who become reemployed within 13 weeks to keep the balance of the account as a cash reemployment bonus. With the funds from these accounts, unemployed workers may purchase a variety of employment related services such as job training, child care, transportation, or even career counseling to help them find a new job and reenter the workforce.

In today's changing economy, jobs require more alternative and diverse skill sets. This legislation helps keep the American worker trained to meet the needs of our ever more knowledge-based economy.

Fighting Yucca Mountain: Porter Votes No On House Funding Bill

On June 25, 2004, I showed my strong opposition to the Yucca Mountain project by voting against the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Energy and Water Appropriations bill which allocated funding for the proposed Nuclear Waste Repository at Yucca Mountain. The bill authorizes funding at \$131 million, the lowest level in years.

For twenty years, I have fought against the Yucca Mountain project, and I believe to this day that the facility is a danger to the people of Nevada and unnecessary for the people of our Nation. As long as I am privileged to serve in the US Congress, I will do all I can to limit funding and kill the Yucca Mountain project.

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What we do know about Yucca Mountain and its suitability to store nuclear waste causes me great concern, and many scientific studies are still incomplete.

Furthermore, the Yucca project is now in the halls of justice, and no more tax dollars should be allocated to Yucca until the courts have provided their input which I believe will be favorable for Nevada.

Porter Resolution Honoring Tuskegee Airmen Clears House of Representatives



Congressman Porter met with Las Vegas resident and retired Tuskegee Airmen Mr. George Sherman to learn more about the Airmen's service during WWII

On June 1, 2004, the House of Representatives passed a resolution I introduced honoring the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen. My resolution also honors their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force, the world's foremost Air and Space Supremacy Force.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet Mr. George Sherman, a Las

Vegas resident and retired member of the Tuskegee Airmen. Mr. Sherman shared stories from his military career and provided a window into the world the Tuskegee Airmen lived in.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of dedicated and determined young men who enlisted to become America's first African-American airmen. These airmen were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee, Alabama beginning in 1941. Throughout their service during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen distinguished themselves over the skies of Europe.

Airmen trained at Tuskegee received two Presidential Unit Citations for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat, and they established the incredible and unprecedented record of flying more than 200 bomber escort missions without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft. The outstanding record of these men was accomplished while fighting two wars – one against military forces overseas and the other against racism both at home and abroad.

Among the most courageous of all those who served in our armed forces during the Second World War, the Tuskegee Airmen defied both fascism abroad and racism at home while establishing a record as one of the most successful fighting units in American history. I am proud to honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their contributions to our nation and the example they continue to offer us today.

I am proud to support these fine veterans and honor their great contributions to our nation.

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Nevada Job Growth Leading The Nation



In June, the government released new jobs figures for states across the country. The May 2004 figures show that 3,800 jobs were created in Nevada, the largest percentage gain in the nation. The state's unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent.

When it comes to the strength of our nation's economy, Nevada is truly a bellwether. Today's job numbers reflect positive news for Nevada. While there is still more to be done to keep our state's economy strong, these new job numbers show that tremendous progress has been made in Nevada. America needs to stay the course with pro-growth policies that have jump-started this economy and are fueling the creation of new jobs.

Nationwide, more than 1.4 million new jobs have been created since last August, and the national unemployment rate stood at 5.6% in May, below the national average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Contact Me

Should you require any additional information, if you would like to inform me of your views, or if you require assistance with your interactions with the Federal Government, please contact me anytime in either my Henderson, NV or Washington, DC office. You can also find information available online at www.house.gov/Porter.

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